

Essay Types for Your Senior Project

- **A Narrative Essay tells a story. It has character, setting, and action. The characters, the setting, and the problem of the narrative are usually introduced in the beginning. The problem reaches its high point in the middle. The ending resolves the problem.**

The purpose of this type of writing is to recount a personal or fictional experience or to tell a story based on a real or imagined event. In well-written narration, a writer uses insight, creativity, drama, suspense, humor, or fantasy to create a central theme or impression. The details all work together to develop an identifiable story line that is easy to follow and paraphrase.

- **Principles of Writing Narrative Essays**

Once an incident is chosen, the writer should keep three principles in mind.

- Remember to involve readers in the story. It is much more interesting to actually recreate an incident for readers than to simply tell about it.
- Find a generalization which the story supports. This is the only way the writer's personal experience will take on meaning for readers. This generalization does not have to encompass humanity as a whole; it can concern the writer, men, women, or children of various ages and backgrounds.
- Remember that although the main component of a narrative is the story, details must be carefully selected to support, explain, and enhance the story.

Conventions of Narrative Essays

In writing your narrative essay, keep the following conventions in mind.

- Narratives are generally written in the first person, that is, using "I." However, third person ("he," "she," or "it") can also be used.
 - Narratives rely on concrete, sensory details to convey their point. These details should create a unified, forceful effect, a dominant impression. More information on [sensory details](#) is available.
 - Narratives, as stories, should include these story conventions: a plot, including setting and characters; a climax; and an ending.
- **An Expository Essay can take a variety of forms. It may tell how to make or do something, report on an experience, or explore an idea. Expository writing conveys information to the reader in such a way as to bring about understanding, whether it be of a process or procedure, or of the writer's ideas about a concept.**

The purpose of this type of writing is to inform, clarify, explain, define, or instruct by giving information, explaining why or how, clarifying a process, or defining a concept. Well-written exposition has a clear, central presentation of ideas, examples or definitions that enhance the focus developed through a carefully crafted reader's understanding. These facts, examples, and definitions are objective and not dependent on emotion, although the writing may be lively, engaging, and reflective of the writer's underlying commitment to the topic.

- **What to consider when writing an expository essay:**
 - What process are you trying to explain? Why is it important?
 - Who or what does the process affect?
 - Are there different ways of doing the process? If so, what are they?
 - Who are the readers? What knowledge do they need to understand this process?
 - What skills/equipment are needed for this?
 - How long does the process take? Is the outcome always the same?
 - How many steps are there in the process?
 - Why is each step important?

- What difficulties are involved in each step? How can they be overcome?
- Do any cautions need to be given?
- Does the process have definitions that need to be clarified?
- Are there other processes that are similar and could help illustrate the process that you are writing about?
- If needed, tell what should not be done or why something should be done.
- Expository papers are often written in the second person (you), but some teachers prefer that you avoid this.

- **A Persuasive Essay states an opinion and supports it convincingly. It considers the nature of the audience and marshals evidence accordingly. It is neither completely objective nor wholly emotional. Instead, it uses the controlled feelings of the writing to persuade the audience.**

Persuasive writing moves the reader to take an action or to form or change an opinion. This type of writing is assessed for three reasons:

- 1) it requires thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation;**
- 2) it requires writers to choose from a variety of situations and to take a stand; and 3) it is a skill frequently used in school and the workplace.**

Persuasive writing has several functions: to state and support a position, opinion or issue; to defend, refute or argue.

DEFINITION OF PERSUASIVE WRITING

The purpose of this type of writing is to convince the reader to accept a particular point of view or to take a specific action. If it is important to present other sides of an issue, the writer does so, but in a way that makes his or her position clear. The unmistakable purpose of this type of writing is to convince the reader of something. In well-written persuasion, the topic or issue is clearly stated and elaborated as necessary to indicate understanding and conviction on the part of the writer.